



Українська Католицька Парафія
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

*The No. 1 priority for ... the church is evangelization:
preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world.*

14 Жовтня, 2012

Volume 57 No. 42

October 14, 2012

550 West 14 Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1P6
E-Mail: office@stmarysbc.com

Phone: 604.879.5830
Fax: 604.874.2727
Website: www.stmarysbc.com

Служби Божі / Divine Liturgies

В Неділю / Sunday

8:30 am recited – Bilingual

10:30 am sung – Ukrainian

У Свята / Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

Щодня / Daily Scheduled

7:30 am Matins/Утреня in chapel

8:25 am in church

First Friday - 8:25 am Divine Liturgy followed by
Moleben to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or
Mother of God

Сповіді починаючи десять хвилин перед
Службою Божою

Confessions begin ten minutes before the Divine
Liturgy or by appointment

Baptism by appointment - membership in Parish is
required

Marriages by appointment made at least six
months in advance. Membership in Parish is
required

Funerals by arrangement in the Parish Office

оо. Василян/ Basilian Fathers
serving this Parish

Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor
Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM
Bishop Emeritus

20-а Неділя Після Зшестя Святого Духа

Лука 7:11-16



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 7:11-16

**SPECIAL NOTICE – Do not park in the
RESERVED stalls in front of St. Mary's
Gardens when you come for the Sunday
Divine Liturgy. Your car will be towed.**

14 Жовтня, 2012

20-а Неділя Після Зшестя Святого Духа Неділя

Парафія Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці вітає всіх гостей, приятелів та рідних які зєдналися сьогодні разом брати участь в цій Службі Божі. Нехай наш Господь через заступництво Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці благословить Вас і Вашу родину.

Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Жовтень

Загальний намір: "Щоб нова Євангелізація поступово зростала в давніх християнських країнах."

Місійний намір: "Щоб святкування Всесвітнього Дня Місії зроджувало плід в новому зобов'язанні євангелізації."

- Тропарі і читання в фіолетовій книжці на стор. 2 і 3.

Спеціальне прохання: після закінчення Служби Божої просимо замкнути молитвенники і співаники і поставити їх на відповідне місце. Рівнож просимо не залишайте бюлетенів і других матеріалів в лавках. Будьмо господарними в нашій церкві і допоможемо, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.

СЬОГОДНІ, Неділя, 14 Жовтень:

- **Спільна Вервиця** – 10:00 рано в церкві перед Службою Божою у 10:30 рано.
- **Парафіяльна Катехитична програма** під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.
- **Сніданок після Служб Божих в Авдиторії.** Улаштує ЛУКЖК. Вступ \$8 для дорослих. \$3 для дітей нижче 12 років. Вступні нагороди.

Понеділок, 15 Жовтень:

- 7:00 веч. Спільної Вервиці – НЕ БУДЕ СЬОГОДНІ.
- 7:00 вечора Сходини Парафіяльної Ради у Борд Румі.

Середа, 17 Жовтень:

- 8:00 am. Pyrohy making in the Hall kitchen – men and women are invited to help
- 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в каплиці.

П'ятниця, 19 Жовтень:

- 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в каплиці.

Неділя, 21 Жовтень:

- **Спільна Вервиця** – 10:00 рано в церкві перед Службою Божою у 10:30 рано.
- **Парафіяльна Катехитична програма** під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

Понеділок, 22 Жовтень:

- 7:00 веч. Спільної Вервиці в каплиці.

Середа, 24 Жовтень:

- 7:00 веч. Спільна Вервиця в каплиці.

Неділя, 28 Жовтень:

- **Спільна Вервиця** – 10:00 рано в церкві перед Службою Божою у 10:30 рано.
- **Парафіяльна Катехитична програма** під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.
- **Парафіяльні Річні Збори** починаються з перекусом в нашій центрі після 10:30 Служби Божої.

Понеділок, 29 Жовтень:

- 7:00 веч. Спільної Вервиці в каплиці.

October 14, 2012

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes all our guests, friends, visiting relatives and Parishioners in celebrating this Divine Liturgy together. May our Lord, through the intercession of the Protectress, the Blessed Mother of God, bless you and your family!

Papal General Prayer Intention for October: *“Pray that the New Evangelization may progress in the oldest Christian countries.”*

Mission Intention for October: *“Pray that the celebration of World Mission Day may result in a renewed commitment to evangelization.”*

- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the purple booklet pages: 2 & 3.

A SPECIAL Request: At the conclusion of each Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church pews clean and neat. Thank you.

TODAY, Sunday, October 14:

- **10:00 am** Communal Rosary in church.
- **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.
- **Pancake Breakfast** in the Auditorium following each Divine Liturgy. The cost is \$8 for Adults and \$3 for children under 12 years of age. Door Prizes. Hosted by the Parish Branch of the UCWLC.
- **Bishop Ken and the Eparchial UCWLC executive** invite you to an open house at the newly renovated Bishop Jerome Chimy Eparchial Centre (502-5th Avenue, New Westminster) between 2 – 4 PM. Donation envelopes for the assistance with the renovations will be available for your convenience at the Open House.

Monday, October 15:

- **7:00 pm** – **There will be NO Communal Rosary today Only.**
- 7:00 pm – Parish Council meeting in the Board Room.

Wednesday, October 17:

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

Friday, October 19:

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

Monday, October 22:

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

Wednesday, October 24:

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

Friday, October 26:

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

Sunday, October 28:

- **10:00 am** Communal Rosary in church.
- **Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers** during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.
- **Parish Annual Meeting** following the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy in the auditorium.

Monday, October 29:

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

Wednesday, October 31:

- 7:00 pm Communal Rosary in Rectory Chapel.

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING – OCTOBER 28, 2012

Our Parish Annual Meeting is fast approaching and our Nominating Committee is in need of assistance.

Are you interested in making our Parish a better place of worship and Fellowship? Are you interested in assisting our fellow Parishioners to be more conscious of the need for Stewardship? Are you interested in encouraging your fellow Parishioners to take an active part in the life and welfare of this Parish?

These are very good qualities that would help you to be a member of the Parish Council.

To be named to the Parish Council, or one of the committees, or to nominate a Parishioner please call one of the Parish Nominating Committee Members listed below.

The Parish needs your input! You can do this by: 1. Praying for the good of the Parish. 2. Offering your time and talents by serving on Parish Council. 3. Supporting the members of the Parish Council by participating in Parish events.

The Nominating Committee consists of:

Chair: Dr. Michael Myckatyn – 604-277-0828

Adam Kozak – 604-929-2581

Bill Humenny – 604-574-5777

Eugene Lupynis – 604-274-8631

Verle Kaweski – 604-224-3785

PICK UP YOUR ANNUAL REPORT IN CHURCH ON OCTOBER 21, 2012. Please note that all Financial questions must be in writing and handed in to the Parish Office by October 24. Financial Questions raised during the Meeting will be addressed at the next Parish Council Meeting – most likely on Dec. 17, 2012.

A Ukrainian Catholic young Adult male from Saskatchewan, attending a nine month Fine Arts program, in the downtown area, is looking for an apartment or basement suite to rent or for Room and Board. Call Simon at 1-306-862-7949.

PRAYER OF JOHN PAUL II when he visited the Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas – TO OUR LADY OF ZARVANIZA – Saturday, 23 June 2001

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Zarvaniza, I thank you for the gift of my visit to the 'Kyivan Rus'. From where the light of the Gospel spread through this whole region.

Here before your miraculous icon, kept in this church of Saint Nicholas, I entrust to you, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, my apostolic journey to Ukraine.

Holy Mother of God, spread your maternal mantle over all Christians and over all people of good will who live in this great nation.

Lead them to your Son, Jesus, who is for everyone the way, the truth and the life.

Це пригадка для всіх вірних. Просимо приходити вчасно на Службу Божу. Будьмо готові разом заспівати початковий гімн. Зрозумійте, якщо Ви прийдете до Церкви після Великого Входу, Ви пропустили більшу частину Служби Божої, і дійсно не вислухали приписаної Служби Божої на неділю.

Церковна Етика: Будьмо свідомі, що беручи участь у Св. Літургії ми мусимо одержати кінцеве Благословення перед тим як ми залишимо Службу Божу. Ми рівнож просимо не виходити з Церкви перед закінченням Служби Божої. Ми просимо Вас не спілкуватися в Церкві перед, під час і після Служби Божої. Прошу це робити в притворі Церкви або у Вітальні під церквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

A SPECIAL NOTE to ALL PARISHIONERS: Please come on time for the Divine Liturgy. Realize that when you come into the Church proper after the Great Entrance, you have missed most of the Divine Liturgy and have not really attended the prescribed service for a Sunday.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty and Merciful God, Inspire those You have chosen To hear and answer Your call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Give them the courage to be the prophets for our times. Give them the wisdom and openness to live their personal call. Give them the strength to be ready witnesses of Your love and care for the world. May they find support and encouragement in our words and in our prayers. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and all the Saints. Amen.



Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Metropolitan

Andrey: Our Lord Jesus Christ, You always reward Your faithful servants, not only with special gifts of Your love, but also with the eternal reward of the saints in heaven, and in many cases You grant them the recognition of sanctity by Your Church here on earth. We humbly pray: grant that Your faithful servant Metropolitan Andrey be numbered among the saints. Throughout his just life, “full of suffering and trials,” he was a good shepherd for his flock and a great labourer for Christian unity. And through his beatification and intercession, grant our entire people the great gift of unity and love. Amen.

www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca

PRAYER FOR A VIBRENT PARISH – O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ – The Way, The Truth, and The Life – and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You: Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Live-Giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!



GENERATIONS OF FAITH 2011/2012

Come and join us for lunch, conversation and prayer

Register now for the next Generations of Faith session featuring

“The Holy Mystery of the Anointing of the Sick”.

On SUNDAY, November 18th, at Holy Eucharist Cathedral,

501-4th Avenue, New Westminster, from 12:30pm – 4:00pm

There will be a separate session for the children.

Early bird registrations will be accepted until November 4th.

Please register in advance for this event by November 12th.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or on the Eparchial website at: www.nweparchy.ca. They can be submitted to your parish office or contact person.

For more information, speak to: **Carol Achtemichuk @ 604.980.4680.**

Rides are available to New Westminster.

Request for Prayers: for you, your family, or friend – please submit the name to the Parish Office or submit a note and place on the collection plate.

Пам'ятайте помолитися: за Вашу родину, за членів Парафії, а особливо за тих які знаходяться в лікарнях, або тих що очікують Божої відповіді на їхні молитви, або радіють Божою відповіддю, або за тих які відзначають уродини, або роковини, або за тих що покликані до їхньої вічної винагороди, або за родину яку вони залишили.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR: your family; your fellow parishioners; the shut-ins or those in hospital; those seeking God's guidance or rejoicing with God's favour; or for those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; or have been called to their eternal reward or for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

Please remember in your prayers especially: Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Vincent Prychidko, OSBM; Fr. Steven Basarab, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Mary Earl, Catherine Hladij, Bohdan Karpinski, Karlo Kozy, Victoria Kuzik, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie Lawryshyn, Oscar Lyseyko, Ben Marchinkow, Jason Obuck, Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Wasyl Saik, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow. Please remember the family of + Mary Magusiak (Anne Gully's sister) in your prayers.

PLEASE VISIT our Parishioners or phone confined to their homes. They need your visits, your phone calls, as well as your prayers.

If there are people you visit requesting our prayers, please call the Parish office.

Please remember to pray daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Наш Парафіяльний Базар зближається чим-раз ближче. Базаровий Комітет ласкаво просить Вас, якщо Ви приготуєте консерви цього літа, то просимо зробити декілька “екстра” на наш Базар. Ваша поміч буде оцінена.

1. **The Bazaar “Preserves and Baking” Committee** is requesting any extra **preserves** that you will be making over the summer. Please bring as many as you can spare to the Auditorium kitchen on Tuesdays. They will be sold **at our Parish Bazaar**. Your help is greatly appreciated.
 2. **They are also** asking for **Home baking** such as brownies, breads and buns, pies, cakes, cinnamon buns, cookies and any other baking that does not include fillings such as cream or cheese or other dairy products.
 3. **The Bazaar “Silent Auction” Committee** is asking for **donations** of all things (ie: Hockey tickets, dinners for two, wine box, etc.) to be bid on **at the Silent Auction**. Please bring them as soon as possible to the Parish Office or place them in the “Silent Auction” box in the Church Fellowship Room.
 4. **The Bazaar “Paper Lottery” Committee** is asking for **donations of new items for the children and adult “Paper Lottery”**. **Your help is needed before and during the bazaar**. For more information, call Pat Oleksiew at 604.278.1429. Your help is greatly appreciated.
 5. **The Bazaar “Crafts” Committee** is asking for **items for the Crafts Corner**; such as small wooden ornaments or boards, knitting, home decorated aprons and other such useful items, and things for scrapbooking. Drop them off at the Fellowship Room.
 6. **The Bazaar “Rummage Sale” Committee** need items for the **Rummage Sale** such as clean slightly used clothing, clean kitchen utensils (pots and the like), household items (picture frames, ornaments and the like). Drop them off at the Fellowship Room. We will not accept used TVs, electronic devices, big living room furniture, or any other item that can carry unwanted creatures.
 7. **Dates for “pyrohy making” for the Bazaar – start on Wednesday at 8 am: Oct. 17**. For more information, call Henriette Ukrainetz at 604.291.0087.
- For any other information call the Parish Office or Dr. Michael Myckatyn, Bazaar Chairperson, so that we can direct your call to the right person.

Ukrainian Catholic bishops discuss next steps in vibrant-parish plan

By Barb Frazee Catholic News Service

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (CNS) – Ukrainian Catholic bishops from around the world gathered in Canada to discuss how to make their parishes more vibrant especially through the involvement of laypeople.

How they do that requires solutions as varied as the parishes that represent more than 4 million Ukrainian Catholics on four continents.

“We have parishes that are growing” and need pastoral, financial and structural

support, said Canadian Bishop Ken Nowakowski of New Westminster, who heads the Ukrainian Catholic Church's implementation team for its strategic plan, "Vision 2020." Some urban parishes have an aging population and declining numbers, and synod members must decide how to support the parish priest who spends so much time visiting the sick and officiating at funerals, said Bishop Nowakowski. At the other end of the spectrum, the bishops must consider how to help keep priests in busy, large parishes from burning out.

The vibrant parish initiative was approved by the synod in 2011 when the bishops met in Brazil. Their first steps have included making sure that clergy understand the plan and representatives of each of the Ukrainian Catholic eparchies, or dioceses, designated a priest-representative to help introduce the plan within the eparchy.

Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia said that, at least as far as he had heard, "the workshops for the priests worked out very well; they were very positive." "This whole Vision 2020 has helped us focus on goals ... what are we going to try to achieve for now?" he added.

Bishop Nowakowski said that about 70 percent of the world's 4,500 Ukrainian Catholic priests have given feedback and are involved with the plan. This year church leaders hope to involve religious communities and monastics, he said.

He told Catholic News Service he would present synod members with a report on what has been accomplished and would include feedback. Synod members will either ask the committee to continue with its current plan or make changes, he added. The Synod of Bishops, the Ukrainian Catholic Church's governing body, normally meets in Ukraine, but it is meeting in Canada Sept. 9-16 in honor of the centenary of the arrival of Canada's first Ukrainian Catholic bishop, Blessed Nykyta Budka.

Winnipeg's Ukrainian Archbishop Lawrence Huculak said as bishops from other countries arrived for the synod, they were impressed with the involvement of Canada's laity. Even the synod's organizational committee has laypeople on it, he said. "It's not just the bishops ... the people are taking part and helping to organize it," he said.

Ukrainian Catholics in Canada have women's, men's and youth groups. Lay groups have national conventions, elect leaders and participate in the life of the church.

"Although we (Canadians) may take it for granted, our laity have not been able to organize themselves in the same way" in some other countries, he said.

Last December, the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, Ukraine, outlined his vision in a pastoral letter to Ukrainian Catholics worldwide. In the letter, "The Vibrant Parish – A Place to Encounter the Living Christ," he spoke of the elements needed to "grow in holiness and unity in Christ Jesus."

Archbishop Shevchuk said people of all ages must continue to learn about the faith – not only from the Bible, but also from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Priests must teach and laity have a responsibility to learn because "permanent and continuous formation for various age groups ... is an essential component of the vibrant parish."

Parishioners must participate regularly in the sacraments, and families must once again become "a school of prayer," he said.

"Our parishes can become places where care is given to the orphan, protection for the widow, help for the poor, and where the suffering of the sick is shared," he said.

Parishes must have active pastoral and parish councils as well as "well-formed and mature co-workers who assist the priest in leading catechetical schools, church brotherhoods, charitable works, youth organizations and prayer groups," he said. "One

of the most important responsibilities of leadership in the parish community is discerning God's will and searching for the best ways of implementing it in the life of the parish." Everyone in the parish must have a missionary spirit, he said.

Archbishop Soroka told Catholic News Service that in the Philadelphia Archdiocese, he hoped to work through the people in the pews to reach those who are not coming to church. "Many have lapsed," he said, adding, "If we do not reach out to those in the pews today, to whom will we speak when they leave?" The archbishop said that, by reshuffling some clergy assignments, he has been able to designate 2.5 priest slots for work on outreach to lapsed Catholics, including on social networks like Facebook and Twitter. This fall, he said, they hope to create two short DVDs – one on the Creed and one talking about why people go to church, what gives people a sense of belonging. The DVDs will be distributed to Ukrainian Catholics who attend church in the hopes that they will want to share them with friends and relatives who no longer come to church.

He added they planned to make use of the KISS principle: "Keep It Simple – and Spiritual."

HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV HAS INVITED YOU TO KYIV IN 2013!

His Beatitude, our Patriarch Sviatoslav, has invited the faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to make a pilgrimage to Kyiv in 2013 to celebrate the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivian–Rus, Ukraine! The major celebration will be a special Divine Liturgy on Sunday August 18 at the Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv. Join Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, OSBM of Winnipeg and Bishops David Motiuk of Edmonton, Ken Nowakowski of New Westminster and Bryan Bayda, C.Ss.R. of Saskatoon on an official pilgrimage to Ukraine 7–21 August. The Pilgrimage will begin in Western Ukraine visiting Lviv, Zarvanytsia, and Ternopil before proceeding to Kyiv for the major celebrations. In the next few weeks more details will be announced as soon as the program is finalized. Solaway Travel has been commissioned to assist our Church in arranging for our travel plans and accommodations on this pilgrimage. To express your interest in being part of this very exciting pilgrimage with our Bishops please contact:

Myrna Arychuk of Solaway Travel: 3819 Sunset Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 1T4
Tel: 604.430.6789 Fax: 604.430.2244. Myrna – myrna@solawaytravel.com, or **Solaway Travel** www.solawaytravel.com/

EVANGELISATION IS NOT THE WORK OF SPECIALISTS BUT OF THE ENTIRE PEOPLE OF GOD

Vatican City, 20 September 2012 (VIS) – "As members of the college of bishops, you must always have particular care for the universal Church, especially by promoting and defending the unity of the faith. ... This is particularly important in our own times, which calls on you to courageously invite mankind of all degrees to meet Christ and to strengthen the faith". These words were addressed by the Pope to bishops participating in a congress currently being promoted by the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

The bishops' pilgrimage to the Tomb of St. Peter is of particular importance this year, the Holy Father noted, in light of the forthcoming Year of Faith marking the fiftieth anniversary of Vatican Council II and the Thirteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme: "The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith".

The bishops' first concern, then, must be "to promote and support 'stronger

ecclesial commitment to new evangelisation in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith'. You are called", the Pope told his audience, "to support and nourish communion and collaboration between all parts of your dioceses. Evangelisation is not the work of a small number of specialists but of the entire People of God under the guidance of their pastors. Each member of the faithful, with and within ecclesial communion, must feel the responsibility to announce and bear witness to the Gospel".

Benedict XVI then went on to recall how, during the opening of Vatican Council II, Blessed John XXIII had affirmed the need for "'this certain and unchanging doctrine, which must be faithfully respected, to be developed and presented in a way that responds to the necessities of our time'. We could say that new evangelisation began with the Council, which Blessed John XXIII saw as a new Pentecost that would make the Church flourish in her interior richness and her maternal outreach towards all areas of human activity. The effects of that new Pentecost, despite the difficulties, have extended to every expression of Church life: from the institutional to the spiritual, from the participation of the lay faithful, to the growth of charisms and sanctity".

This heritage has been entrusted to the pastoral care of bishops, the Pope explained, and he encouraged his hearers "to draw from this patrimony of doctrine, spirituality and sanctity in order to educate your flock in the faith, that their witness may become increasingly credible. At the same time your episcopal office requires you 'to give reasons for the hope that is in you' to everyone seeking the faith or the ultimate meaning of life. In them too 'grace works in an unseen way, for Christ died for all men, and the ultimate vocation of man is one, and divine'. I encourage you, then, to work to ensure that everyone, in keeping with their age and condition, be presented with the central contents of the faith, systematically and completely, in order to respond to the questions raised by our technological and globalised world. ... The Catechism of the Catholic Church is vital to this end, a sure norm for teaching faith and communion in the one Creed. The world in which we live requires Christians to have a solid formation".

The faith calls for "credible witnesses, people who trust in the Lord and entrust themselves to Him 'to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world'. The bishop, who is the first witness to the faith, accompanies believers on their journey offering them the example of a life lived in faithful abandonment to God. ... It is not, in fact, possible to serve mankind without first being servants of God", the Holy Father said.

He concluded by reminding the prelates that "your personal commitment to sanctity must involve daily assimilation of the Word of God in Prayer and in the Eucharist. ... Charity must impel you to remain close to your priests. ... They are your first and most important collaborators in bringing God to mankind and mankind to God. The charity of the Good Shepherd will also make you attentive to the poor and suffering, bringing them consolation and support, and guiding those who have lost touch with the meaning of life. Remain particularly close to families, ... that they may build their lives on the solid rock of friendship with Christ. And have particular care for seminarians, ... so the community may continue to have mature and joyful pastors, sure guides in the faith".

NO PRAYER IS EVER LOST

Vatican City, 12 September 2012 (VIS) – During his general audience, held this morning in the Paul VI Hall, Benedict XVI focused his catechesis on prayer in the second part of the

Book of Revelation in which, he noted, attention moves from the interior life of the Church "to the entire world, because the Church advances through history and is a part thereof".

In this second part of Revelation, the Christian assembly is called "to undertake a profound interpretation of the history in which it lives, learning to discern events with faith so that, through its actions, it may collaborate in the advancement of the kingdom of God. Such interpretation, discernment and action are closely associated with prayer".

The assembly is invited to ascend unto heaven "in order to see reality with the eyes of God". There, according to St. John's narrative, we find three symbols with which to interpret history: the throne, the scroll and the Lamb. On the throne sits Almighty God "Who has not remained isolated in heaven but has approached man and entered into a covenant with him". The scroll "contains God's plan for history and mankind, but it is hermetically sealed with seven seals and no one can read it. ... Yet there is a remedy to man's confusion before the mystery of history. Someone is able to open the scroll and illuminate him".

That someone appears in the third symbol: "Christ, the Lamb, Who was immolated in the sacrifice of the cross but stands in sign of His resurrection. The Lamb, Christ, Who died and rose again, will progressively open the seals so as to reveal the plan of God, the profound meaning of history".

These symbols, the Pope explained, "remind us of the path we must follow to interpret the events of history and of our own lives. Raising our gaze to God's heaven in an unbroken relationship with Christ, ... in individual and community prayer, we learn to see things in a new way and to grasp their most authentic significance". The Lord invites the Christian community "to a realistic examination of the present time in which they are living. The Lamb then opens the first four seals of the scroll and the Church sees the world of which she is part; a world containing ... the evils accomplished by man, such as violence ... and injustice, ... to which must be added the evils man suffers such as death, hunger, and sickness".

"In the face of these often dramatic issues the ecclesial community is invited never to lose hope, but to remain firm in the belief that the apparent omnipotence of the Evil One in fact comes up against true omnipotence, that of God". St. John speaks of the white horse, which symbolises that "the power of God has entered man's history, a power capable not only of counterbalancing evil, but also of overcoming it. ... God became so close as to descend into the darkness of death and illuminate it with the splendour of divine life. He took the evil of the world upon Himself to purify it with the fire of His love".

The Holy Father went on: "How can we progress in this Christian interpretation of reality? The Book of Revelation tells us that prayer nourishes this vision of light and profound hope in each one of us and in our communities. ... The Church lives in history, she is not closed in herself but courageously faces her journey amidst difficulties and sufferings, forcefully affirming that evil does not defeat good, that darkness does not shade God's splendour. This is an important point for us too: as Christians we can never be pessimists. ... Prayer, above all, educates us to see the signs of God, His presence and His action; or rather, it educates us to become lights of goodness, spreading hope and indicating that the victory is God's".

At the end of the vision an angel places grains of incense in a censer then throws it upon the earth. Those grains represent our prayers, the Pope said. "and we can be sure that there is no such thing as a superfluous or useless prayer. No prayer is lost. ... God is not oblivious to our prayers. ... When faced with evil we often have the sensation that we can do nothing, but our prayers are in fact the first and most effective response we can give, they strengthen our daily commitment to goodness. The power of God makes our weakness strong".

St. Mary's Ukrainian Food Fair and Bazaar.

For more information, click [here](#).